

BWL NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2007

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Syna Dennis
BWL President

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Syna N. Dennis

Recently, I spent an evening with Maya Angelou at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion for the Music Center Speaker Series. I was completely captivated as I listened to Angelou deliver an inspirational message on being the rainbow in a life of clouds. "When it looked like the sun wasn't shining anymore, God put a rainbow in the clouds," she said. The cadence of Angelou's strong voice, as she invoked the words from a 19th century gospel song, mesmerized audience members diverse in race, gender and age who were fortunate enough to be there. Angelou's theme, woven throughout her mixed-medium presentation of song, storytelling and poetry, was riveting. "If the rainbow is in the clouds themselves, that means at the worst of times there is hope," she reminded us.

In fact, BWL has been working with some of those "rainbows." I'd like to thank the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, the National Council of Negro Women and the Black Aids Institute for engaging 54 women's organizations, representing four million African American women across the United States, for their work in bringing hope to women who have HIV/AIDS or are at risk of being infected with HIV/AIDS. On February 7 - 11, BWL participated in the second annual "M.E.E! (Mobilization, Education, Empowerment) National Black Women and HIV/AIDS Conference at the Omni Hotel in Los Angeles. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, AIDS remains one of the leading causes of death for African Americans in the United States. With regard to Black women in the United States, AIDS is the leading cause of death for Black Women between the ages of 24 - 34. However, through education and empowerment of women, we can dramatically change those statistics.

Indeed, there is hope. Black History Month presented unique opportunities to recognize the wisdom and tenacity of the generations of African Americans who have come before us and those who will follow.

BWL members and friends gathered at M. Hanks Gallery, an African American business owned by Eric Hanks, a longtime friend of BWL, in Santa Monica for a celebration of African American art on February 16. For those who attended the reception, it was a special occasion to acknowledge the critical contributions of African American artists. The exhibition, featuring the works of Phoebe Beasley, Elizabeth Catlett, Jacob Lawrence and Romare Bearden and other distinguished artists, vividly and brilliantly depicted the depth and breadth of the African American experience.

BWL Past President, the Honorable Glenda Veasey, was honored by the Black City Attorney's Association with its Distinguished Alumnus Award at the Association's annual luncheon on February 22. City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo presented the award to Commissioner Veasey before an overflow crowd at the Los Angeles City Hall Tom Bradley Tower.

On February 22, renowned civil rights attorney Connie L. Rice received the Johnnie L. Cochran, Jr. Community Service Award from the Loyola Law School African American Alumni Association. In accepting the award, Rice, who is co-Director of the Advancement Project Los Angeles, paid tribute to the late Johnnie L. Cochran, Jr. and challenged a rapt audience -- students, faculty, lawyers, judges, community activists and friends -- to pick up the baton left by Cochran and work to end the problems of inequity and exclusion.

In March, National Women's History Month, BWL continued to promote the full participation of women of color in the legal profession through charitable, educational and community-based services. On March 8, the Community Action Committee participated in Career Day at 112th Elementary School in Los Angeles. The Education Committee is actively pairing laws students with individual mentors. The Pro Bono Committee assisted with client intake at the Mesereau-Ephriam-Villaraigosa Free Legal Clinic on March 24. The Clinic, a BWL pro bono legal services project, is part of the Brookins Community Center located in Los Angeles and provides legal services and information to local residents.

This month and in the months ahead, BWL will be a rainbow in the clouds. Will you join us?

BWL's CLE's and Other Activities for 2006-2007

By Audrea Golding Bitler, President-Elect

BWL kicked off this bar year with a well-attended Meet and Greet and Potluck at the Wilfandel House on October 18, 2006. The general meeting gave new members the opportunity to get to know each other and to meet and network with existing members of BWL. Our guest speaker, attorney **Thomas Mesereau** spoke of his involvement in pro bono legal activities in the African-American community and encouraged BWL members to commit to undertaking pro bono legal services in our community this year.

On October 26, 2006, BWL, in conjunction with the California Minority Council Program, the Los Angeles County Bar Association's Diversity Committee Section, Sidley Austin, the Southern California Chinese Lawyers Association and the Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles presented a CLE program aimed at addressing the findings of the American Bar Association's report issued in August, 2006 on the high rate of female attrition from the legal profession. Over 100 people attended the program, entitled "You Can Fly High Against the Wind: Diverse Female Partners of Large Law Firms Provide Best Practices for Success" was held at the offices of Sidley & Austin in downtown Los Angeles. BWL members including **Past President Katessa Charles Davis** (Partner – Steptoe & Johnson), **Dianne Baquet Smith** (Partner – Sheppard Mullen Richter & Hampton) and **Denise McKenzie** (Partner – Sidley Austin) joined a diverse panel of women partners from Los Angeles area law firms in discussing the unique pressures faced by women attorneys, and in particular, women of color as they try to succeed and elevate in the legal profession. The program was an edifying and uplifting one, which encouraged women to pursue their goals despite the findings in the ABA reports, and to support each other in those goals.

On November 16, 2006, BWL and the Center for Health Care Rights (CHCR) presented a community forum and CLE seminar entitled, "Helping Our Seniors Understand Their Rights and Responsibilities under Medicare Part D". The seminar was held at the Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Plaza, and was aimed at providing guidance to Medicare beneficiaries and caregivers on the new Medicare Part D prescription drug program and the rules and options for enrollment. Presenters **Denise E. Hanna** (Partner - Lord Bissell & Brook) and **Deepti Sethi** (Staff Attorney - Center for Health Care Rights) provided an overview of the Medicare Part D program and a detailed examination of the options seniors have under the program, including their rights to review or appeal decisions on claims made under the program.

On December 20, 2006 BWL co-hosted its annual Holiday Party with the John M. Langston Bar Association at the Wilfandel House. The party attracted a large number of attendees from both bar associations and guests. In keeping with tradition, we congratulated new admittees to the California bar, and recognized members who had been promoted or elevated during the course of the year. Guests were asked to bring donations of toys and toiletries to the Holiday Party to be donated to the Jennessee Center in Los Angeles, a center for survivors of domestic violence, and we received a tremendous number of items and monetary donations from attendees this year.

BWL hosted a New Year's "Fireside Chat" with BLSA Students from schools in the Los Angeles area on January 18, 2007 at UCLA School of Law. BWL members **Samantha Grant** (Partner – Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp), **Nicole Hancock** (Attorney – Warner Bros.), **Angela Reddock** (Partner – Carroll, Burdick & McDonough LLP) and **Nedy Williams Warren** (Partner – Williams, Yasinski & Jones) served as panelists during the Chat and discussed their experiences during law school, lessons learned during their law school years, searching for summer associate and associate positions and other jobs, the value of clerkships and externships, and the importance of developing networking skills even while in law school, to prepare students for pursuing employment and other opportunities in the future. **Professor Christine Goodman** from Pepperdine University also provided insight on exploring opportunities in academia and in non-traditional law firm settings. Many of the students in attendance committed to becoming active in BWL and the members in attendance expressed their commitment to doing all that we can to help them succeed.

On February 16, 2007, BWL hosted a Black History Month Celebration of African American Art at the renowned M. Hanks Gallery in Santa Monica. Members of BWL, joined law students, judges and guests in a well-attended wine and cheese reception, and viewed the gallery's Black History Month exhibit entitled, "Masterpieces of African American Art: An African American Perspective". The exhibit featured works by several artists such as Romare Bearden, Charles White, Meta Fuller and others. Some pieces in the exhibit dated as far back as the early 1900's. During the event, gallery owner **Eric Hanks** expressed his appreciation for BWL's support of the gallery over the years, and the exhibit. He invited members to return and participate in his art appreciation classes and future exhibits to gain a better understanding and appreciation of the contributions of African-American art in American history and culture.

On March 9, 2007, BWL co-sponsored the Los Angeles Black Professional Organizations Mixer hosted by the Los Angeles Chapter of the National Black MBA's. The event was held at the Trifecta Ultra Lounge and Sports Bar in downtown Los Angeles and was a huge success. BWL members joined members of the Black MBA's and other African-American professional organizations such as the John M. Langston Bar Association, the Association of Black Women Physicians, and the Charles Drew Medical Society to network and form new business relationships.

As we approach the end of this bar year, BWL has many upcoming meetings and events, which we hope you will continue to attend.

BWL would like to thank those members and supporters of BWL who have supported our programs throughout this bar year. You have helped BWL as we continue to pursue our mission of serving our members and community through educational, charitable and community based services.

Winning 101:

What They Rarely Teach in Law School (You Need to Know to Win!)
By Karyn J. Taylor

Law school. It's the perfect place to spend years pouring over contracts, studying patents and analyzing torts. But it's not where young lawyers learn to litigate jury trials. For that, they need on-the-job training and getting it presupposes a fair share of lost cases in the School of Hard Knocks!

While practical experience is a must, we believe it is possible to go to court forewarned and forearmed. Here, then, are five key things you probably didn't learn in law school you need to know to win.

Lesson #1

Jurors don't process and analyze information the way you do. Knowing how they do it is crucial to winning your case.

THE
LAWYER'S VIEW:
FACT 1
FACT 2
FACT 3
+ WITNESS
VERDICT

Law schools train lawyers to do inductive reasoning. Thus, from the lawyer's perspective, facts and evidence are cumulative: present a few good facts, find witnesses to corroborate them and they'll "add up" to a winning verdict.

But jurors were never trained to think this way. Jurors listen to the facts you present in Opening Statement and discern a story

therein. If the story they hear is the one you told, great. If you didn't tell a story, the jury will weave the facts you did present into a story of their own. Throughout trial, they'll then listen to testimony selectively, adopting only those facts or evidence that support their story, and will ultimately base their verdict on those filtered facts.

THE JUROR'S VIEW:

STORY + (FILTERED FACTS & EVIDENCE) = VERDICT

What jurors are doing is deductive reasoning and it's the reason lawyers frequently get "surprise"

verdicts. How do you combat deductive reasoning? Tell a concise, plausible, emotionally compelling story in Opening Statement so that the story jurors are looking to "prove" is yours.

Lesson #2

Jurors don't always view the world the way you do. Fail to view the world through their eyes and you'll lose.

Every single person on the planet views the world through the prism of his or her own life experience. That experience is a function of many things: age, gender, education, racial or cultural background, socio-economic status, religious beliefs, personality traits, psychological makeup and more. Each juror thus comes to court with his/her own "worldview" – the sum total of the attitudes, beliefs, prejudices and pre-conceived notions he/she has accumulated over a lifetime.

The juror's worldview determines how he/she "hears" your case. Present your case so that it reaffirms, exploits or jibes with the juror's worldview, not your own, if you want to win. Have no clue how your jurors see the world? Jury research will help.

Lesson #3

People forget what they hear; but remember what they see. Fail to present your case visually and you increase the odds you'll lose.

We are a visually-oriented society – not because we're bombarded with images all day long – but because making images is biologically

wired in. It's integral to the way homo sapiens make memories and crucial to retaining information.

Madison Avenue learned long ago that "one picture is worth 1000 words." Lawyers must take heed. Why? Because jury research shows that an audience that merely hears a presentation remembers only 10-15% of it three days later. Thus, jurors who hear only oral testimony then wait days or weeks before deliberating typically forget MOST of the facts and evidence long before deliberations begin!

The solution? Add visuals to your presentation. An audience that both hears and sees a presentation remembers up to 65-80% of what it's heard. That's a huge jump in retention no trial lawyer can afford to ignore. No jury is ever persuaded by the evidence it forgets.

Lesson #4

There is one best way to present every case, every time, no matter what the facts (and it's not what you think)!

Lawyers are logical thinkers. Trained to "lay a foundation," they typically structure their cases fact-by-fact, brick-by-brick and present them in chronological order. If only jurors processed and absorbed information that way!

Research shows that 95% of people prefer to organize information not chronologically, not brick-by-brick, but in story form. It's how they manage information overload in a chaotic world.

Does that mean you should never use a chronology in trial? No. It means present that chronology in the context of telling the story of who did what to whom, how, when and WHY they did it. (People want to know motive in every case.) Shift focus away from your client by maximizing the other party's level of knowledge and control. Jurors tend to blame the one in charge. If they see your client in that light, odds are you'll lose.

Lesson #5

Jurors never volunteer for jury duty. That fact alone impacts how you must present your case.

Put yourself in the jurors' shoes. Jurors are called into service then forced to put their lives on hold while they listen to other people talk 7-8 hours a day. They can't eat when they're hungry, relieve themselves when they need to or walk out if they're weary or bored. Sounds like the job from Hell.

Often resentful of the people and institutions that have forced them to serve, jurors frequently rationalize away that resentment by deciding to "do their civic duty" (read: helping someone in need). Jurors' conscious altruism is unconsciously motivated by the universal (but self-serving) human need to maintain their self-esteem.

Juror self-interest is thus your best weapon in court. To paraphrase Tom Cruise's character in Jerry McGuire, help (the jury) help you: construct a case story that allows jurors to feel good about themselves (read: rebuild their self-esteem) by helping your client and your battle will be won.

About the Author

Karyn J. Taylor is founder of The Strategic Image, a trial consulting and legal graphics firm in Los Angeles, CA. A former award-winning producer/director/writer for 60 Minutes, 20/20, Closeup and more. She harnesses the power of juror psychology, social science research and conceptual graphics to help litigators maximize their odds of winning in court. To increase the odds of winning your next mediation, arbitration or jury trial, visit www.thestrategicimage.com or call Karyn at (310) 821-1776.

DIVERSITY ON THE BENCH

by Judge Patricia J. Titus

Diversity is an important issue in all occupations and callings, but especially in our legal system, the continuing viability of which depends heavily on maintaining the public's trust. The 2000 U.S. Census revealed that 1 out of 10 Americans reside in California. The 2000 Census further revealed that California is one of our country's most racially and ethnically diverse states and has one of the largest African American populations in the nation. Therefore, its rich multicultural heritage should be reflected in our state's judiciary, particularly in light of the disproportionate number of African Americans and people of color who are subject to the criminal justice system. Furthermore, because California legal decisions often shape and influence the outcomes in court cases across the country, it is critical that a diverse and representative judiciary be achieved.

In recent months, diversity on the bench in California has become a hot topic of great concern and much discussion in both the legal and political arenas. Increasing the diversity of California's judicial officers to reflect the rich diversity of California's populace is an important goal of the Judicial Council of California. The Judicial Council is the policymaking body of the California courts and the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) carries out the official actions of the council. On June 3, 2006, the AOC held its first ever summit on diversity in the judiciary. Under the dynamic leadership of Alameda Superior Court Judge Brenda F. Harbin-Forte, conference panelists and attendees examined the need for, barriers to, and strategies for achieving a diverse judiciary.

The California State Bar, under the leadership of State Bar President Sheldon H. Sloan, has made increasing diversity in the legal profession as one of its major areas of focus during his term of office. Last fall, the California State Legislature, under the leadership of Assembly

Speaker Fabian Nunez, passed Senate Bill 56, which requires the Governor's Office to collect and annually report aggregate demographic data relative to the ethnicity and gender of judicial applicants and appointees, the Administrative Office of the Courts to collect and report on the ethnicity and gender of active California justices and judges, and the State Bar's Commission on Judicial Nominations Evaluations (JNE) to collect and report by ratings on the ethnicity and gender of the lawyers and judges evaluated by them.

Always a leading force among the state's judiciary, the Los Angeles Superior Court (LASC) hosted its first summit on judicial diversity on January 20, 2007. Well-attended by a representative cross-section of the bench, bar leaders, attorneys, law school deans and professors, the conference discussion panels focused on law school admission policy and criteria in the first panel and on the judicial appointments process in the second panel. The goal of the summit was to open the local dialogue rather than offer any concrete solutions on the issue. However, it was proudly announced that under the leadership of Judge William McLaughlin, its immediate past presiding judge, LASC had achieved its most ethnically and gender diverse list of candidates for Superior Court Commissioner.

I believe that as members of BWL, increasing the number of African Americans and women on the bench should be an individual personal and collective professional commitment. I suggest that we each start today by taking the time to participate in local career days, by allowing an aspiring lawyer to spend time with you during a typical workday, and by encouraging and mentoring potential future BWL members whenever they express an interest in pursuing a legal career.

THE COMMUNITY ACTION COMMITTEE

By Ugochi Anaebere and Lori Williams

To reach the goals envisioned by BWL's theme this year, the Community Action Committee has decided to sponsor three events, which demonstrate BWL's commitment to the community:

1. In December 2006, the Committee, with the generous donations from members of BWL and the Langston Bar Association, provided toys and toiletries for its annual Holiday Toy & Toiletries Drive to the Jenesse Center, which provides victims of domestic violence with a comprehensive, centralized base of support to assist them in addressing their immediate needs and changing their pattern of living. The Committee wishes to thank the many members who supported our efforts. The Jenesse Center was very appreciative of the donations.
2. On March 15, 2007, BWL participated in the annual career day of the 112th Street School, located in South Central Los Angeles. This is BWL's opportunity to enrich the lives of young children of African-American and Latino descent. The theme for this year's career day is "The Path from Elementary to the Working World." The Committee is currently soliciting volunteers to serve as panelists for the career day.

Please contact either Ugochi Anaebere (nigerian01@yahoo.com) or Lori Williams (lnwilliams@gmail.com), co-chairs for the Community Action Committee, if you would like to serve as a panelist.

3. On March 30, 2007, BWL donated canned goods and toiletries to St. Joseph Center (SJC), which offers a range of programs targeted to help needy families and individuals in West Los Angeles. One such program involves providing relief for the hungry. Last year alone, SJC provided more than 14,000 bags of groceries through its Food Pantry, and served more than 26,000 hot nutritious meals at Bread & Roses Café, an innovative free restaurant for the homeless. In support of SJC's efforts, during the month of March, BWL hosted a food drive to provide SJC with much needed food and toiletries.

BWL's commitment to service by connecting lawyers and the community is the cornerstone of the Community Action Committee. Our aim is to increase BWL's visibility and impact in the community. We appreciate your support and welcome your ideas for other projects this year. To join the Community Action Committee, please contact Ugochi Anaebere at nigerian01@yahoo.com or Lori Williams at lnwilliams@gmail.com

HPV VACCINE MANDATE PROPOSED IN CALIFORNIA

By Tara L. Canady

A bill (AB 16) was introduced in December 2006 by California Assembly Speaker Pro Tempore Sally Lieber (D-San Jose) that would require all California girls entering the sixth grade to be immunized against human papilloma virus (HPV). The bill was later dropped by Lieber and picked up by Assembly member Ed Hernandez (D). The legislation would become the state's only immunization requirement that is intended for a single gender and the only requirement aimed at preventing a virus contracted solely through sexual contact. Currently, California school-aged children are required to receive approximately 10 vaccines as a condition of attending educational institutions. While state law permits parents to refuse any vaccination because of a conflict in beliefs, it is unclear exactly how effectively this caveat is communicated to the general public.

HPV is the name of a group of viruses that includes more than 100 different strains or types. Some of these viruses are sexually transmitted, infecting the sexual organs of both males and females. A few are "high-risk" types and may lead to cancer. Some statistics show at least 50% of sexually active people will get HPV at some time in their lives. Every year in the United States (U.S.), about 6.2 million people get HPV. HPV is most common in young women and men who are in their late teens and early twenties. The American Cancer Society estimates that in 2006, over 9,700 women will be diagnosed with cervical cancer and 3,700 women will die from this cancer in the U.S.

Enter Gardasil, a vaccine manufactured by the pharmaceutical powerhouse Merck & Co., and approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in June 2006 as a primary means to prevent cervical cancer. The vaccine protects against four types of HPV. Its use has been authorized for women ages 9 to 26 and has been proven to be less effective for those who have already been exposed to the virus. Less than a month after the FDA approval, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices unanimously voted to recommend that all girls ages 11 and 12 receive the vaccine.

At \$360 for a series of three shots over a 6 month period, it is the most expensive vaccine yet. There has been some debate over exactly how this cost would be covered. Some say that Medicaid and other federal programs will help cover costs. Still, others maintain that parents and large private insurers would be responsible for the cost of the vaccination. What is clear is that

the legislation does not seek to allocate state funding.

California is one of approximately 30 states that have introduced similar measures. The governor of one state, Texas, unilaterally mandated that all of the state's middle school-aged girls be vaccinated. This action has angered Texas lawmakers who have taken steps to rescind the executive order, and prompted the parents of three Texas girls to sue the governor for overstepping his authority and illegally requiring the vaccine. Washington, as another example, has taken a more neutral approach. The state Assembly passed a bill that requires all public and private schools to give parents of children entering the sixth grade information on HPV, its symptoms and causes, and places where vaccines can be obtained.

Many parents and healthcare advocates have raised many objections to the proposed requirement, saying that mandating the vaccine may encourage promiscuity, infringes on parental rights, and ignores the potential negative health effects the vaccine may have for young girls.

Despite such objections, the California Department of Health Services has already distributed 60,000 doses of the vaccine to healthcare providers, and it is in the process of providing 45,000 more. Some school districts in the state, such as, the Los Angeles Unified School District are offering the vaccine and female students are eligible to receive Gardasil with parental consent.

But for now, the future of California's girls is uncertain. During a recent hearing, Assembly Health Committee members from both political parties expressed concerns about the legislation, including a lack of information on how parents could opt their daughters out of the requirement, how to pay for vaccinations, and the novelty of the vaccines. After receiving such negative feedback, Assembly member Hernandez promptly withdrew the bill. He does, however, plan to present a revised version in the months to come. Meanwhile, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's proposed budget for the 2007-08 fiscal year includes \$11.3 million for HPV vaccines.

Pursue Your Passion

By Pamela Samuels-Young

Do you ever fantasize about leaving the law behind and pursuing another career? Something not nearly as "safe" or as prestigious as the legal profession? Perhaps you've thought seriously about it for a day or a week, but then the fear of leaving the virtual security of your law firm or in-house position floods your head with dozens of sound reasons why you should stay put. Whether your passion is to write a novel, become an interior decorator or start your own consulting firm, you can make it happen. Here are five tips that will help you begin your journey.

1. Find Time To Plan Your Passion

With the demands of work, family, church and community activities, you may feel you don't have a spare moment to even think about, much less pursue, your dream career. You're wrong. It may not be easy, but you can find free time where you least expect it. The next time you're taking a neighborhood jog or walking on the treadmill, use the time to mull over the plot for that book you've been wanting to write or to think about possible locations for the day spa you've dreamed of opening. Instead of listening to your favorite CD during your morning and evening commute, use the time to work on the business plan for your catering business. A Dictaphone can be a pretty handy tool in that situation. Your lunch break and the two or three hours a week you spend in the beauty shop can also be put to good use. With your family's support, you might even find an evening or two to run off to your local library or a nearby Starbucks for some business-planning time. Even if it's only an hour a week, use it.

2. Don't Reinvent The Wheel

You may not realize it, but you have a multitude of resources all around you – family, friends, colleagues, church members, sorority sisters, and even strangers. Don't be afraid to request an informational interview. If you want to run a bed 'n breakfast, call up the owners of a similar establishment in another community, invite them to lunch and tap their brain. People love to talk about themselves and many will be flattered to have a lawyer asking them for advice. The Internet is also a valuable resource. You can enter a few key words on Google and thousands of helpful articles will appear right before your eyes. Just as you would do with an unfamiliar legal issue, research, research, research!

3. Join Professional Organizations

It's a good idea to surround yourself with others who share your interests and passion. There are dozens of professional groups whose sole function is to help their members develop their creative talents and realize

their business goals. Organizations like Minority and Women Business Owners, Women Entrepreneurs, Inc., Women in Theatre and Romance Writers of America, just to name a few, provide information, support and networking opportunities. Find the organizations that can be most helpful to you and sign up.

4. Understand That It Won't Happen Overnight

When you started law school, you knew that if you graduated and passed the Bar, you had a pretty good chance of finding a job. Entrepreneurial ventures don't offer the same guarantees. *Writer's Digest* magazine profiled a writer, J.A. Konrath, who received more than 400 rejection letters before getting his first book deal. Now that's what you call perseverance! There will no doubt be disappointments and things probably won't happen in accordance with your time line. But if you remain faithful and focused on your goal, it will happen.

5. Ignore The Naysayers

Many people believe you should find a good job, work as hard as you can for 30 years, then retire and enjoy life. For them, the thought of leaving a secure, well-paying position for the uncertainties of entrepreneurial life is unthinkable. That kind of limited thinking won't help you realize your dream. When I tell people about my dream of becoming a full-time novelist, many smile and give me a look that says, "That's nice. Now run along back to your briefs." You have decide what you want to do and go for it. And don't be surprised if you turn out to be your biggest obstacle. When that happens, just look your self-doubt squarely in the face and command it to go away.

Remember the trauma you experienced as a first-year law student right before your very first exam? In the end, you not only survived, you thrived, and then went on to pass the test of all tests, the California Bar Exam. The same degree of preparation and persistence that got you through law school will also help you smoothly transition into your new career. So don't sit back and dream about pursuing your passion, make it happen!

Pamela Samuels-Young, Managing Counsel for Labor and Employment Law for Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc. in Torrance, wrote two novels while working full time as an attorney. She is the author of the legal thrillers *Every Reasonable Doubt* and *In Firm Pursuit*, which are both published by Harlequin. You can read an excerpt of Pamela's novels at www.pamelasamuels-young.com.

BWL SCHOLARSHIPS

by Nicole Hancock

The Foundation held its first scholarship fundraising event in 1975. Since then, the Foundation has awarded more than \$100,000 in scholarships to law students based on their academic excellence, extracurricular activities, community service and financial need. Those scholarship recipients have become judges, law firm partners, government attorneys, in-house counsel and public interest attorneys.

Scholarship applications are available online at www.blackwomenlawyersla.org. In addition, they are mailed to law schools throughout California as well as selected out-of-state law schools. To be eligible for a scholarship, students must be second or third year law students in full-time programs or fourth-year students in evening or part-time programs. In addition, they must intend to practice law in Southern California after graduation. Scholarship applications are reviewed by the Scholarship Selection Committee. Selected applicants are then interviewed. The scholarship recipients are then chosen and announced at BWL's Annual Scholarship and Awards Luncheon.

BWL Installation



BWL Black History Month Celebration of African American Art



BWL at UCLA BLSA Solidarity



BWL Cocktail Sip



BWL Fireside Chat at UCLA



BWL at CAALA dinner honoring Carl Douglas



BWL - Langston Bowling Night



BWL at the Langston Installation Dinner



BWL delivery of donated gifts to Jenesse Center for the holidays



BWL Thanksgiving Eve Cocktail Sip

BWL held its annual Thanksgiving Eve Cocktail Sip on November 22, 2006 at the beautiful Millennium Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles, California. The theme this year was Mardi Gras and upon their arrival, guests were given complimentary Mardi Gras masks and beads.

Guests were treated to live jazz featuring Jeff Robinson, fantasy casino games, dancing, vendors, a silent auction and a delectable array of hors d'oeuvres.

Funds from the cocktail sip are used to support many of BWL's outreach programs. This year BWL plans to adopt an elementary school, act as mentors for children emancipated from the foster care system and increase the number of BWL volunteers for the Harriett Buhai Center for Family Law.

BWL would like to thank our 2006 Cocktail Sip Sponsors:

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Cocktail Sip Co-Chairs Sherri L. Cunningham and Tangel D. Terry would like to thank the following committee members: Sandra Anderson, Tara Canady, Sandra Carter, Adrienne Byers, Syna Dennis and Tala Davis. Congratulations to Audrea Golding-Bitler for being the member who sold the most tickets!

Thanks to all of those individuals who supported the event and we look forward to seeing you next year!!

BWL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, May 5, 2007 at 11:00 a.m.

BWL 32nd ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP BRUNCH & SILENT AUCTION

Marriott Marina del Rey

4100 Admiralty Way, Marina del Rey, CA 90292

This year's theme honors Black Women Lawyers' unique commitment to serving the community and celebrates the relationship between our outstanding past and promising future.

BWL will honor:

Dress for Success – Los Angeles Chapter, Janet Lavendar, Executive Director; HerShe Group, Kenadie Cobbin, Executive Director; and Sandra Evers-Manley, Vice President Northrop Grumman.

This year's scholarship recipients are:

Siannah Collado, Southwestern University School of Law; Tyra Hughley, University of Southern California School of Law; Jaaye Person-Lynn, Howard University School of Law; and Lauren Randolph, Pepperdine University School of Law.

Tuesday, May 22, 2007 at 11:30 a.m.

LANTERNS LUNCHEON

Millennium Biltmore Hotel

506 South Grand Avenue, Los Angeles, CA, USA 90071-2607

This year, Lanterns will honor City Controller Laura Chick, Faye Washington, Chief Executive Officer for the YMCA of Greater LA and Dolores Robinson, one of Hollywood's top dealmakers.

Wednesday, May 16, 2007 at 6:00 p.m.

"SEIZING OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN LAWYERS IN SPORTS AND ATHLETICS"

Hosted by BWL and the Amateur Athletic Foundation

2141 West Adams Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90018

Details at www.blackwomenlawyersla.org

Thursday, June 21, 2007 at 6:30 p.m.

BWL YEAR-END GENERAL MEETING AND GENERAL ELECTIONS FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Meeting Room, 2999 Overland Avenue, Suite 20, Los Angeles, CA 90064

Corner of Overland Rd. and National Blvd.

Details at www.blackwomenlawyersla.org

Friday July 13 – Sunday July, 15 2007

BWL Annual Retreat, Palm Springs

Hyatt Grand Champions Resort & Spa

44-600 Indian Wells Lane

Indian Wells, CA 92210

Details at www.blackwomenlawyersla.org



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